

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16 are pending in the present application. No amendments are proposed.
Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following discussion.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner now relies on the newly cited references of Soiferman (U.S. Patent No. 5,424,633) and Cilingiroglu (U.S. Patent No. 5,124,660) in setting forth the following rejections:

1) claims 1-3 and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Soiferman; and

2) claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soiferman in view of Cilingiroglu.

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for a conductive member adapted to be disposed on the side of one of the surfaces of said circuit board and to be supplied with an inspection signal; means for supplying the inspection signal to said conductive member; and a plurality of cells adapted to be disposed on the side of the other surface of said circuit board. Independent claim 9 is drawn to a similar embodiment.

However, according to lines 21-26 and 52-59 of col. 4 of Soiferman:

The energizing plate 10 is made of a high conducting metal material (aluminum or copper). It is connected to the AC signal generator 11. One side of the plate must have an insulation layer 17 (FIG. 2) to prevent electrical shorting with the BUT 16.

The electromagnetic sensor 12 can be in the form of a full size array covering the whole BUT or a smaller size array movable to scan the whole BUT. The switching and movement of sensors is controlled by the sensor unit 13. The sensor is placed in close proximity to the other side (the side without the energizing plate) of the BUT. There must also be an insulation layer 18 (FIG. 2) between the sensor board and the BUT.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the energizing plate 10 of Soiferman is not disposed on the surface of the BUT 16, since instead the energizing plate 10 is actually disposed on the insulation layer 17. Similarly, the electromagnetic sensor 12 is not disposed on the other surface of the BUT 16, since instead it is disposed on the insulation layer 18. That is, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of Soiferman, the insulation layers 17 and 18, and not energizing plate 10 or sensors 12, are disposed on the respective surfaces of the BUT 16.

In other words, the applied reference of Soiferman fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 1 concerning a conductive member adapted to be disposed on the side of one of the surfaces of said circuit board and to be supplied with an inspection signal; means for supplying the inspection signal to said conductive member; and a plurality of cells adapted to be disposed on the side of the other surface of said circuit board.

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111

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In view of the aforementioned remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case. If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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